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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/55/150.

** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 19 July 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 26 January 1990 and entered into force on 2 September 1990, the thirtieth day after the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. On 17 December 1999, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/149, entitled "The rights of the child" which dealt with the issues of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography; the protection of children affected by armed conflict; refugee and internally displaced children; progressive elimination of child labour; the plight of children living and/or working on the streets and children with disabilities. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the problems addressed in resolution 54/149. The present report is submitted to the Assembly pursuant to that request and contains information on the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and information submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

3. The General Assembly, by its resolution 54/263 of 25 May 2000, adopted two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

II. Status of the Convention

4. As at 5 July 2000, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 191 States. In addition, one State had signed the Convention. (For the list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, see A/52/348, annex.)

5. As at 5 July 2000, the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict had been signed by eight States (Argentina, Cambodia, Canada, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Sweden and the United States of America), and the optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography had been signed by five States (Cambodia, Chile, Monaco, Norway, San Marino and the United States of America).

III. Implementation of the Convention

6. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-sixth session, adopted resolution 2000/85 of 28 April 2000, in which it expressed its profound concern that the situation of children in many parts of the world remained critical as a result of poverty, inadequate social and economic conditions in an increasingly globalized world economy, pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflicts, displacement, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, disability and inadequate legal protection; welcomed the role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in examining the progress made by States parties in implementing the obligations undertaken in the Convention and in providing recommendations to States parties on its implementation and, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in creating awareness of the principles and provisions of the Convention; called upon States parties to accept as a matter of priority the amendment to paragraph 2 of article 43 of the Convention; called upon States parties to ensure systematic training for professional groups working with and for children and called upon States to strengthen efforts to improve national systems for the collection of comprehensive and disaggregated data, including gender-specific data, for all areas covered by the Convention on the Rights of the Child; recommended that, within their mandates, all relevant human rights mechanisms, in particular special rapporteurs and working groups, and all other relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies regularly and systematically take a child's rights perspective into account in the implementation of their mandates; and decided to request the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, while noting the temporary support

given by the Plan of Action of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

7. The Committee on the Rights of the Child held its twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 September to 8 October 1999, 10-28 January 2000 and 15 May to 2 June 2000, respectively.[1]

8. Protecting the rights of the child has grown to be a major theme on the agenda of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The High Commissioner considers wide-ranging and important issues such as children in armed conflict, exploitation of child labour, sale and trafficking of children, juvenile justice, child prostitution and child pornography, and violence and discrimination against the girl child. In addressing children's rights issues, OHCHR has established a long-standing cooperation with UNICEF as well as other United Nations agencies and bodies.

9. In November 1996, the High Commissioner launched a Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Plan became operational in July 1997. As at July 2000, five staff members were working under the Plan of Action. In addition to providing substantive support to the Committee, the Plan also assists States in meeting their reporting obligations and undertakes activities to follow-up on the recommendation of the Committee.

10. The year 1999 marked the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention by the General Assembly. In September/October 1999, in the course of the Committee's twenty-second session, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child organized a two-day workshop to assess the impact of the Convention after 10 years, both at the national and international level, and to design recommendations to strengthen its implementation in the future.

11. On 20 November 1999, the commemorative day of the adoption of the Convention, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights received in Geneva a delegation of 86 children from 24 countries from all regions of the world which had been organized by ATD Quart Monde. During a ceremony of art and music, the children presented to the High Commissioner an appeal which was the result of work in their home countries and during meetings which took place the week prior to the ceremony. The appeal, drafted in the children's own words, underlined the importance of the family, the need for children to come together and fight poverty, the importance of equality of chances for children, the need for children to go to school, the importance of jobs for parents, the importance of play, and the need to end violence. "We would like land mines to turn into shoes, we would like bullets to turn into candy, and cannons into tractors." The appeal called on the United Nations to understand poor children and to learn from them.

12. Following the adoption of two optional protocols to the Convention, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that it sends a strong signal, at the start of the century, that protection of the rights of every child is, and must remain, a matter of the highest priority on the agenda of the international community and specified that the protocols should be rapidly ratified by States and implemented.

13. During the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (1-5 May 2000), the representative of the Committee on the Rights of the Child suggested that the view of children and adolescents be taken into account in the preparatory process of the World Conference, possibly through participation at the country level.

14. At the April 1999 meeting in Geneva of the International Coordinating Committee on National Human Rights Institutions, the United Nations High Commissioner encouraged those national institutions to reinforce and review their work in favour of children's rights. During the fourth annual meeting of the Asia/Pacific Forum in Manila (9-10 September 1999) a specific workshop on children's rights was held. At the Fifth International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Rabat, Morocco (13-15 April 2000) participants gave special emphasis to children's rights and adopted the Rabat Declaration, which refers to the need for national human rights institutions to work specifically on children's rights.

15. From 30 May to 2 June 2000, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in the Preparatory Committee for the

special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2001 to review the implementation of the World Declaration and Plan of Action approved in 1990 at the World Summit for Children.

16. UNICEF believes that, despite the positive momentum, formidable challenges, such as HIV/AIDS, armed conflicts, discrimination and poverty, remain in addressing underlying conditions that affect children, women and their families and inhibit the fulfilment of their rights. UNICEF has called for the provision of basic social services of good quality to all children as the key to reducing poverty and maximizing the individual capabilities of children and of their societies. UNICEF will continue to advocate for poverty reduction, debt relief and poverty monitoring, through, inter alia, the identification, development and utilization of social indicators. As the intent to achieve "education for all" grows in the new millennium, UNICEF continues to focus on the crucial area of girls' education (literacy, communication, rights advocacy etc.).

17. In the context of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF launched a pilot project, entitled "Making children count". The project complements and expands upon the publication of the implementation handbook for the Convention with concrete examples of implementation measures adopted by Governments.

18. In coordination with key partners, UNICEF is investing globally in documenting good practices and innovations in its rights-based approach to programming. The core *Programme Policy and Procedure Manual: Programme Operations* for UNICEF staff was fully revised in 1999 to include the dimensions of human rights, gender, the environment, programming in situations of instability, United Nations reform, results-based management and quality assurance. UNICEF has continued to support the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other human rights bodies. In particular, UNICEF has very closely collaborated with the Committee and OHCHR in the organization of the tenth anniversary commemorative meeting of the Committee.

A. Prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography

19. Since the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly (1999), the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography, has focused her mandate upon the role of the family as both preventive and causative of the entry of children into commercial sexual exploitation. She has traditionally chosen one aspect of her mandate — e.g., the justice system, the media, education — to analyse in detail each year. However, it became apparent to her that in the vast majority of cases in which a child is exploited, the roots of the abuse can be traced back to his or her familial situation.

20. In her report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session (E/CN.4/2000/73), the Special Rapporteur addressed the impact of physical and sexual abuse within the family, including situations where the violence is witnessed by, but not directed at, the child. She concluded that both boys and girls are as likely to be made vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation as a result of emotional neglect from the family as they are to physical and sexual abuse. Many of the Government and non-governmental organizations responses to her request for information suggested that the largest group of perpetrators of domestic child abuse are those individuals who are well known by the child and her or his family but who are not necessarily related. The Special Rapporteur was encouraged to receive a considerable number of responses from Governments indicating measures that were being taken to address the issue of domestic violence, although most of the responses were primarily aimed at protecting the woman and enabling her to protect her children. The Special Rapporteur encourages both the further development and the introduction of measures that focus mainly upon the protection of the child, given that in some situations, the perpetrator of the abuse and violence is female.

21. Since the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur has carried out two field missions. In October 1999, she visited the Fiji Islands, and in March 2000, she visited Morocco. Both countries are affected by the scourge of child sex tourism. In Fiji some occurrences of the use of children

for pornographic purposes were reported, and in Morocco, sexual abuse of boys living on the streets, often perpetrated by older boys, was particularly problematic.

22. In 2000, the Special Rapporteur has chosen to focus, from the concerns of her mandate, upon the role of the business sector with regard to the protection of children. In the course of her country visits, she has recently held meetings with representa ives of the local Chambers of Commerce and members of the business community. She has learned of many initiatives carried out by the private sector, usually working in conjunction with non-governmental organizations, and is currently seeking to explore further the possibilities in that regard. In June 2000, the Special Rapporteur wrote to the International Cha nber of Commerce and Chambers of Commerce globally and to many non-governmental organizations, requesting information about existing initiatives that might be proposed and replicated in other parts of the world. The International Chamber of Commerce, which is working closely with OHCHR, the ILO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concerning the Secretary-General's Global Compact, has expressed its full support for the Special Rapporteur and has advised her of many relevant activities that are being carried out in various regions.

23. UNICEF has adopted a three-pronged approach in working to assist victims of sexual abuse and exploitation through activities that seek to decrease the likelihood that sexual abuse and exploitation of children will occur; to protect the rights of children already in abusive or exploitative situations; and to provide psycho-social support and reintegration of children with families and communities. In 1999 UNICEF strengthened its focus on addressing sexual exploitation and abuse. For example, the trafficking of women and girls from countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States region continued to gain visibility through press coverage, and a study of the situation of children in border communities was supported in Poland. National workshops on trafficking were held with UNICEF cooperation in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam as part of a project of the Mekong Regional Law Centre.

24. Similar issues are at the heart of current discussions on a draft convention against transnational organized crime and its protocols against the smuggling of migrants and to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. UNICEF has joined with UNHCR, UNCHR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to express its concern that the convention and its protocols ensure the proper protection of smuggled or trafficked children, including their right to benefit from appropriate assistance.

25. The ILO's new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No.182) covers, among other things, all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children (relevant to article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) and the use of a child for prostitution, the production of pornography or for pornographic performances (article 34). The unanimous adoption of this new Convention in 1999 and its remarkably rapid pace of ratification clearly demonstrate the international consensus that immediate action is needed for the prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation, including child prostitution and child pornography. The ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention and the promotion of the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on that subject will certainly complement each other.

26. The action of OHCHR in the area of trafficking is currently taking place on two fronts. First, the Office continues to enhance the quality of its support to the relevant mechanisms dealing with trafficking and related issues, such as the treaty bodies, the special rapporteurs and the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights. On a second front, OHCHR has developed a specific anti-trafficking programme. Its objective is to work towards the integration of human rights into international, regional and national anti-trafficking initiatives, with an emphasis on the development and promotion of legal standards and on providing policy leadership. OHCHR action is essential because trafficking is too often seen not as a human rights issue but only in terms of migration, organized crime, development, or public order. OHCHR will use its voice to ensure that United Nations agencies, States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations adopt a human rights approach when they address trafficking.

27. To address adequately the issue of trafficking, OHCHR has adopted policy principles, including some

concerning children exclusively; for instance, children should not be treated in the same way as adults in identification, rescue and repatriation processes. They are entitled to special rights and special needs which must be recognized and protected. The definition of the term "trafficking" in laws, policies and programmes should not be restricted to sexual exploitation. It should be broad enough to cover other identified purposes without ambiguity, such as bonded or forced labour and other slavery-like practices. It should use child- and gender-sensitive language to signal that children and women are the ones most vulnerable to trafficking. The work of OHCHR in the area of trafficking is based on two fundamental principles:

(a) That human rights must be at the core of any credible anti-trafficking strategy;

(b) That such strategies must be developed and implemented from the perspective of those who most need their human rights protected and promoted.

In dealing with child victims of trafficking, the best interests of the child are to be at all times paramount. Clear recognition must be given to fighting the impunity of those responsible and at the same time ensuring that the child is not criminalized in any way. Assistance and protection of child victims of trafficking should not be made discretionary or otherwise dependant on the decision of national authorities. In accordance with article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, child victims of trafficking are entitled to the same protection as nationals of the receiving State in all matters, including those relating to protection of their privacy and physical and moral integrity.

B. Protection of children affected by armed conflict

28. Since her appointment in 1993, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict has played a crucial role in ensuring greater attention of all concerned parties to the issue.

29. The main areas of action on the part of UNICEF for the protection of children affected by armed conflicts are: a global call for an end to the use of children as soldiers; increased protection for humanitarian assistance and humanitarian personnel; humanitarian landmine action; protection of children from the effects of sanctions; inclusion of specific provisions for children in peace-building efforts; an end to the impunity of war crimes, especially against children; and early warning and preventive action in support of children.

30. UNICEF collaborated with sister agencies and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict on the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1261 (1999) UNICEF will continue to follow closely the work of the Security Council with a view to ensuring that children's rights are a constant consideration in all its work. UNICEF, together with other United Nations agencies and bodies such as OHCHR, has strongly advocated the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and Their Destruction, which entered into force in March 1999. In coordination with the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNICEF has been designated responsible, within the United Nations system, for promoting landmine awareness worldwide and has been working to assure universality of the convention and global adherence to its principles. The launch of International Guidelines on Landmines and Unexploded Ordinance Awareness Education, developed with UNICEF assistance, provides a foundation for moving training forward. UNICEF has continued to support advocacy on the impact on children of small arms and light weapons. In August 1999, UNICEF and the United Nations Secretariat Department for Disarmament Affairs opened an exhibition at United Nations Headquarters, entitled "Taking aim at small arms: defending child rights". UNICEF used the occasion to confirm its support for the establishment of international and regional codes of conduct to regulate the legal and illicit trade in light and heavy weapons and to welcome the recently launched international non-governmental organization campaign against small arms.

31. With regard to the protection of children in conflict, several UNICEF offices, including those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone, increased their efforts to support demobilization and reintegration programmes for children. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there has been advocacy at the highest levels of Government for a halt to the recruitment of children in the armed forces and for the demobilization of existing child soldiers.

Support to the reunification of separated children has been strengthened and expanded in a number of countries, including Sudan and Uganda, Angola, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania, and was provided during the crises in Kosovo and East Timor.

32. OHCHR gives particular attention to children affected by armed conflict, partially in the context of its commitment to the integration of a consideration of children's rights into every aspect of the Office's work and partly through specific activities focusing on the protection of children's rights in conflict situations. Specific activities focusing on children affected by armed conflict are closely linked to the implementation of the 1996 recommendations in relation to the impact of armed conflict on children.[2] In this regard, OHCHR is in the process of publishing a guide for human rights staff working in the field, in which attention is given to armed conflict situations and to children's rights. Further, OHCHR has joined the Steering Committee of UNHCR and the Save the Children Alliance on the project Action for the Rights of Children (ARC), with the objective of implementing that rights-based capacity building and training initiative in its field presences. Within the framework of ARC, OHCHR is participating in regional training activities for future ARC trainers. In the same spirit, OHCHR's ongoing joint human rights training initiatives with certain regional organizations, such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), are being expanded to include a focus on the rights of children in armed conflict.

33. OHCHR has also been closely involved in the drafting of the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1261 on children and armed conflict and will soon begin working with partners on the process of putting its recommendations into effect. Through its field presences, OHCHR conducts human rights investigations, monitoring, reporting and technical cooperation, focusing at times on the specific situation of children. OHCHR provides a liaison, and maintains extensive cooperation with, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. Examples of collaboration over the past year include the elaboration of terms of reference and the creation of a candidate pool for child protection advisers who will be increasingly serving with United Nations peacekeeping missions. Other common activities have included the elaboration of a joint pilot children's rights training initiative for peacekeeping operation staff and an exchange of information between OHCHR and Geneva-based partners and the Office of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

34. It is worth noting that the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No.182) also covers forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. Although the scope of the ILO Convention is not exactly the same as that of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the ILO's instruments and the United Nations instruments will reinforce each other.

C. Refugee and internally displaced children

Refugee children

35. Some 10 million out of the 22.3 million refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR are children under the age of 18 years. UNHCR strategy involves the prioritization of certain child concerns, and the Office is currently focusing on the following areas in particular: separated children; adolescents; and education. UNHCR is similarly seeking to mainstream children's issues into its overall protection and assistance activities and is placing an increased emphasis on an inter-agency approach to addressing issues of common concern and on training and capacity-building activities. UNHCR works in partnership with a wide range of organizations — most notably, UNICEF and Save the Children.

36. UNHCR's primary protection concern is to ensure that protection is translated into concrete activities on the ground. Those activities encompass and benefit refugee children as well as other categories of refugees. One particular aspect with an important bearing on children is maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements and ensuring the physical safety of refugees. UNHCR has developed the concept of the "ladder of options", or a variety of approaches to deal with varying degrees of insecurity.

37. UNHCR also addresses the specific protection needs of refugee children. Activity in the past year included follow-up by field offices to the United Nations study on the impact of armed conflict on

children.[2] The positions of four regional policy officers for refugee children covering West Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region of Africa, Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States have been strengthened, and a function focusing on the issue of separated children in Europe has been put in place.

38. UNHCR has developed and is implementing the project Action for the Rights of Children (ARC), a training and capacity-building initiative for the staff of UNHCR and governmental and non-governmental organization partners, in collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF and OHCHR. Through ARC training initiatives, regional resource teams are being created with a view to developing follow-up strategies to address specific children's issues in their respective regions/countries.

39. Further follow-up activities to the Machel study[2] include strengthened efforts to address the rights and needs of unaccompanied and separated children. Significant results were achieved in the Great Lakes region of Africa between 1994 and 1999, where close inter-agency collaboration involving UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ensured the successful reunification of some 62,000 Rwandan unaccompanied and separated children. In 1999, UNHCR and the Save the Children Alliance implemented a joint programme seeking to ensure respect for the rights and best interests of separated children and adolescents arriving in Europe. The programme, the Separated Children in Europe Programme, combines advocacy, training and public awareness activities. Another interesting model of joint efforts is a project for separated children in Guinea.

40. Increasing the access of refugee children to schooling, particularly for girls, remains one of UNHCR's main priorities. Projects in Pakistan, Armenia and Liberia, for example, show significant improvements in the school attendance rates of refugee children. Improving educational response during emergencies and enhancing of the quality of teaching requires more textbooks and classroom learning materials, better teacher training and strengthening the capacity of UNHCR's implementing partners in education. Attention to these qualitative issues will also increase the retention rate of refugee children in school.

41. While UNHCR endeavours to ensure access to primary schooling for all refugee children, fewer possibilities are available for children at the post-primary level. Some refugees are able to benefit from scholarship schemes, such as those offered by the Albert Einstein Academic Scholarship Programme for Refugees, funded in 1998 by the Government of Germany. However, since this is an area that requires further attention, a UNHCR proposal for a refugee education trust has been launched. It involves the establishment of an independent fund for refugee post-primary education. To increase the availability of education in emergencies, UNHCR is collaborating with UNICEF in seeking additional financial support from Ted Turner funds through the United Nations Foundation.

42. In the context of return, UNHCR, in cooperation with UNICEF and other agencies, has also been actively involved in rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for returnee children. A prominent example is the ongoing Liberian Children's Initiative, which, starting in 1998, has specifically addressed the special needs of returnee children, inter alia, by facilitating access to education and training and by supporting the functioning of the juvenile justice system. Where local integration or resettlement is the most suitable durable solution, UNHCR pays particular attention to the special protection needs of minors. The UNHCR resettlement handbook defines important criteria and procedures to be followed when resettling minors.

Internally displaced children

43. Over the past year, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Emergencies, comprised of the major United Nations humanitarian, human rights and development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, has taken on a very active role in addressing the needs of internally displaced populations, both at the policy and programmatic levels, globally and at the country level. In 1999, a collection of field practices in internal displacement was promoted by the Committee, with UNICEF leading efforts to collect and publish field experiences relating specifically to children.

44. In November 1999, the Committee adopted a policy on the protection of internally displaced persons in order to ensure that the issue would be addressed in a collaborative manner by relevant organizations of the United Nations system. The policy was further enhanced in May 2000 by the supplementary guidance

issued by the Committee to resident and humanitarian coordinators on their responsibilities in relation to internally displaced persons. These are important tools for providing an environment where the rights of displaced children are promoted and respected through timely and effective action by the United Nations system.

45. Based on human rights law, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and international humanitarian law, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement[3] restate the relevant norms in all phases of internal displacement, the provision of protection from arbitrary displacement, and protection and assistance during displacement and during return or resettlement. The 30 Principles pay special attention to the needs of internally displaced children. They assert as a general principle that children, especially unaccompanied minors, shall be entitled to the protection and assistance required by their condition and to treatment that takes into account their special needs. Specific provisions prohibit the forcible recruitment of children and their participation in hostilities, forced labour, sale into slavery, and sexual abuse. The Principles provide for the rapid reunification of families, in particular when children are involved, the education of displaced children and the equal participation of girls in educational programmes. They also call for special attention to be given to the particular needs of expectant mothers and mothers with young children and to ensuring property rights and opportunities for income-generation for women heads-of-household. Doing so is critical to the well-being and development of internally displaced children.

46. In the short time since their formulation, the Guiding Principles have gained considerable standing and wide recognition as an important tool for the protection of the internally displaced. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee has welcomed the Principles and is actively disseminating and making use of them. The Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly have noted with appreciation the use of the Principles in the work of United Nations agencies, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, encouraged their further dissemination, and requested the Secretary's General Representative on Internally Displaced Persons to use them in his dialogue with Governments. The Security Council, in its recent consideration of the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa, referred to the Principles and emphasized the need for better implementation of relevant norms of international law with regard to internally displaced persons. The Council has begun to refer to the Principles when addressing specific situations of internal displacement, as in the case of Burundi.

47. Regional organizations including the Organization of African Unity, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also have continued to respond positively to the Principles. Of particular note in the reporting period, the OAU Commission on Refugees and Displaced Persons took note of the Principles with interest and appreciation.

48. Relevant to both internally displaced persons and refugee children, mention should be made of the Ministerial Conference on War-affected Children in West Africa (Accra, 27-28 April 2000), in which OHCHR participated. In the Declaration adopted by the Conference, the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS):

(a) Called on ECOWAS member States to provide, with the support of United Nations agencies and donors, full protection, access and relief to refugees and internally displaced persons, the vast majority of whom are women and children, in accordance with international refugee law and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;

(b) Committed themselves to promoting subregional, cross-border initiatives to reduce ... the displacement of populations and the separation of families.

The Plan of Action adopted by the Conference reiterates these points and also includes, in the elaboration of provisions regarding access to education, a commitment to providing the resources required to maintain educational services for children, including refugee and internally displaced children in conflict and post-conflict situations. To assist efforts for the implementation of the Guiding Principles, a handbook on applying them was prepared, along with a manual of field practice in internal displacement. Both documents, which were published by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, for the Committee in the spring of 2000,

devote special attention to programming responses to the plight of internally displaced children.

49. The Secretary-General's Special Representative on Internally Displaced Persons continues to pay special attention, as both the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have requested, to the particular needs of internally displaced children. He does so in particular in his mission reports (on Colombia and East Timor during the reporting period),[4] in special sessions at the series of regional seminars and workshops being held under his mandate (Addis Ababa, Bogotá, Bangkok and Tbilisi, to date), and in inter-agency frameworks, including advocacy, policy formulation and the development of inter-agency training modules on internal displacement.

D. Progressive elimination of child labour

50. The new ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (No. 182) has received a larger number of ratifications than any other ILO convention in the first year after its adoption — 30 as of 5 July 2000. They are Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States, and Yemen). The global campaign for its ratification and implementation undertaken by the ILO and support from other United Nations bodies such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child, were instrumental. These swift ratifications signify firm commitments for immediate action against various forms of violation of children's rights. The Convention will come into force on 19 November 2000. It cannot be overemphasized that Convention No. 182 does not revise or replace ILO Convention No. 138, concerning the minimum age for admission to employment or work, which establishes the ultimate goal of effective abolition of child labour as a whole. It has been pointed out that the effective abolition of child labour is not something attainable overnight and requires not only prohibition in law but also a wide range of comprehensive measures, including measures for education, adult employment and other means of social protection and assistance for children and their families. A country's level of economic and social development has a direct impact on these factors, and the problem needs to be tackled with a medium- to long-term overview.

51. However, the international community realized that certain types of child labour are such a flagrant violation of the children's fundamental rights or so hazardous to their health, safety or life itself that there is no excuse for inaction against them regardless of the degree of economic and social development. This is the gist of Convention No. 182, which sets a priority in the fight against child labour. The adoption of Convention No. 182 by no means signifies tolerance for forms of child labour other than those defined as the worst forms. On the contrary, the process of elaborating the new Convention increased international awareness on the issue of child labour in general. It also brought about a remarkable increase in the number of ratifications of Convention No. 138 on the minimum age, which has almost doubled during the past five years and which now includes more than a half of the ILO member States (95 ratifications, as of 5 July 2000).

52. In the field of assistance through technical cooperation, the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) of the ILO, launched in 1992 with just one donor and six participating countries, has evolved into a 90-country alliance. ILO/IPEC now operates projects on the ground in nearly 70 countries and draws upon resources from more than 20 donors. The IPEC approach is to help Governments and societies to build their capacities to combat child labour and take ownership of effective, proven methods. There are a number of steps involved: to encourage ILO partners and potential partners in a country to begin a dialogue and create alliances; to assess the nature and extent of the child labour problem; to assist in devising national policies to counter it; to set up mechanisms to provide in-country ownership and operation of a national programme of action; to help create awareness in the workplace and the community; to promote development and application of protective legislation; to support direct action to ensure the rehabilitation and social integration of children, including access to education and improved livelihood; to integrate child labour issues systematically into social and economic development policies, programmes and budgets; and to reproduce successful projects.

53. In addition to the above-mentioned two Conventions (Nos. 138 and 182), the policy framework for action against child labour is built also upon the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, adopted in 1998, which mainstreams the issue of child labour among the fundamental social issues. With the adoption and rapid ratification in 1999 of Convention No. 182, ILO/IPEC has made a strategic shift which relies on greatly intensified collection of data and the integration of statistical information, analysis and research. In addition to carrying out a large number of direct action programmes and a growing number of large-scale sectoral projects, ILO/IPEC is now also engaging in nationwide time-bound programmes for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Three countries — El Salvador, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania — have expressed their wish to deal with the worst forms of child labour in that manner. It must be emphasized that the global campaign to promote the ratification and implementation of the two ILO Conventions works alongside its technical cooperation programmes in the field.

54. UNICEF cooperation in child labour issues extended to a wider group of countries during 1999, most notably through the launch of the global Education as a Preventive Strategy Against Child Labour Initiative in 29 countries. Programmes comprise a range of activities aimed at improving access to education for the most vulnerable, reducing drop-out rates and providing second-chance opportunities through non-formal education and training. UNICEF advocacy resulted in amendments to child labour laws in several countries, with sanctions being toughened on employers violating laws on the minimum age, the maximum hours of work and safe working conditions.

55. A regional initiative was begun, in collaboration with the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour/ILO, to assess the prevalence and causes of intolerable forms of child labour, with a special focus on HIV/AIDS as a determinant of children being forced into exploitative labour. In South Asia, a UNICEF task force on child labour was formed to develop a regional strategy based on lessons learned and to strengthen links with the ILO. In India, collaborative efforts were undertaken to encourage trade union members, factory inspectors, workers and the media to focus attention on child labour and exploitation, and the non-formal basic education programme for out-of-school children was expanded to 18 urban centres. In Brazil, over 1,000 mayors signed a letter of intent to take action against child labour in garbage dumps, while local initiatives such as education grants were undertaken by municipalities, individuals and non-governmental organizations to address the problem.

E. The plight of children living and/or working on the streets

56. The Committee on the Rights of the Child decided, at its twenty-third session, that a day of general discussion would be held during its twenty-fifth session (18 September-6 October 2000) on "State violence against children", including violence targeting children living and/or working on the streets.

F. Children with disabilities

57. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on disability noted, in his latest report,[5] that since 1997 and the holding by the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the general day of discussion on the rights of children with disabilities, some positive developments had taken place. According to the Special Rapporteur, the discussion day had resulted in increased awareness of the many dimensions of the issue and had stimulated the Committee to adopt a number of recommendations for further action. The working group established by non-governmental organizations in the fields of disability and children's rights in 1999 to follow up on some of the recommendations has the potential to provide valuable information and knowledge.

58. The Special Rapporteur also noted that there was growing involvement in the plight of disabled children on the part of the non-governmental organizations working in the disability field. He felt it was necessary for that involvement to grow and that the newly created working group could contribute to such growth.

59. Issues related to the prevention of child disability and ensuring that the rights of children with disabilities are met are gradually receiving greater recognition among Governments and development partners. UNICEF's interventions have focused mainly on

increasing access to services for disabled children and promoting their integration into society.

60. In Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States region, a wide range of initiatives to raise the visibility of children with disabilities included the Conference on Social Integration (Russian Federation), creation of a national database for people with disabilities to facilitate their access to services (Armenia), and establishment of clubs for parents of disabled children (Ukraine). In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNICEF helped to launch a pilot project on inclusive and accessible libraries, the first intersectoral project in that country for children with disabilities. The project also helps to expand the access of disabled children to literature and supports training and awareness-raising among teachers and other service providers. In Iraq, UNICEF supported social institutions and special schools for physically disabled children through the training of social workers, the rehabilitation of physical infrastructure and the provision of equipment. In Algeria, UNICEF support in 1999 for the psychological rehabilitation of traumatized children focused on the training of nearly 1,000 inspectors, counsellors and teachers on child trauma and treatment. Support for the rehabilitation of children with disabilities was also provided through non-governmental organizations in Afghanistan and South Africa, while UNICEF assisted the development of teaching and learning materials and the sensitization and training of teachers and health workers for the assessment and integration of children with disabilities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt and Jordan.

61. UNICEF continued to support a number of prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for children affected by landmines. Mine awareness programmes were assisted in a dozen countries, including Angola, Cambodia, Nicaragua and Yugoslavia. Cambodia extended its database on mine incidents in high-risk areas and included mine awareness in teacher training.

Notes

[1] For the reports of the Committee on these sessions, see CRC/C/90, CRC/C/94 and CRC/C/97.

[2] See "Report of the expert of the Secretary-General, Ms. Graca Machal, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/157", in "Impact of armed conflict on children" (A/51/306).

[3] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

[4] E/CN.4/2000/83, Add.1 and 3.

[5] E/CN.5/2000/3.

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Item 113 of the provisional agenda*
Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

Report of the Secretary-General**

I. Mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

1. Convinced that the establishment of a voluntary trust fund would constitute a significant development for the future promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous populations, the General Assembly, by resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985, decided to establish the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund"). The purpose of the Fund is to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights by providing them with financial assistance, funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals.

2. By resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995, the Assembly extended the mandate of the Fund to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people and, by resolutions 53/130 of 9 December 1998 and 54/150 of 17 December 1999, extended it to the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system.

* A/55/150.
** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 18 July 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

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II. Administration

3. The Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations on general trust funds by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the advice of the Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as "the Board").

4. The Board is composed of five persons with relevant experience in issues affecting indigenous populations, who serve in their personal capacity. The members are appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, for a three-year renewable term. At least one member is a representative of a widely recognized organization of indigenous people. The current five members whose term of office expires on 31 December 2002 are themselves indigenous experts: Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Chairperson, Philippines), Michael Dodson (Australia), Naomi N. Kipuri (Kenya), José Carlos Morales (Costa Rica) and Tove Sovndahl Petersen (Greenland/Denmark).

5. The most recent biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund, indicating the activities undertaken with the resources of the Fund and showing income and expenditure as well as the pledges and payments made to the Fund, was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (A/53/282). The present report updates the information contained in that report.

6. The secretariat of the Fund and Board, located at the Trust Funds Unit, Support Services Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva, comprises the Secretary of the Fund and one Professional and one General Service staff member who are paid from programme support costs.

7. The Board meets with the donors to the Fund at its annual sessions. The secretariat also provides information to the donors at an informal consultative meeting organized before the end of each fiscal year. It also meets with donors, upon request.

III. Applications for grants

8. The General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Secretary-General, based upon the recommendations of the Board, have adopted the criteria for the selection of beneficiaries (see annex I to the present report).

9. Applications for grants should be sent by applicants and received by the secretariat of the Fund and Board no later than 1 November each year. They are then analysed, summarized and presented to the Board at its annual sessions, held in April.

IV. Contributions

10. In order to meet requests for funding during a current year, contributions to the Fund should be paid by the end of March in order to be available and duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer before the first day of the annual session of the

Board. Contributions made after that month are carried over to the following session of the Board.

V. Twelfth session of the Board

11. The twelfth session of the Board was held at Geneva, from 12 to 14 April 1999. On 22 April, the High Commissioner for Human Rights approved, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the recommendations of the Board at that session (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/6).

A. New contributions received before the twelfth session

12. The following contributions were received in time for the allocation of travel grants at the twelfth session of the Board:[1]

	Amount (United States dollars)	*Payment received at*	*Date received*
A. State			
Canada	10 110	Geneva	01.05.1998
Colombia	850	New York	30.11.1998
	250	New York	29.01.1999
Cyprus	1 000	Geneva	12.05.1998
Estonia	3 000	Geneva	21.09.1998
Finland	38 480	Geneva	03.06.1998
	38 093	Geneva	23.03.1999
Greece	6 300	Geneva	14.04.1998
	6 000	New York	28.04.1998
Japan	14 500	New York	29.01.1999
Netherlands	36 968	Geneva	10.06.1998
Norway	51 125	Geneva	23.12.1998
Sweden	63 291	Geneva	25.09.1998
B. Non-governmental organizations			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	11 678	Geneva	26.06.1998
Total	**281 645**		

13. There was an outstanding pledge of US$ 40,000 by Denmark at the time of the twelfth session of the Board.

B. Applications for grants

14. The Board of Trustees considered 220 applications from indigenous communities and organizations requesting financial assistance to participate in the seventeenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva,

26-30 July 1999) and 20 applications to participate in the fourth session of the Working Group on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people (Geneva 18-29 October 1999).

15. The Board noted with satisfaction the substantial increase in the number of admissible applications received in 1999, as reflected in the following table:

Working Group	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Working Group on Indigenous Populations	47	72 (+53%)	220 (+206%)
Working Group on a draft declaration	5	3 (-40%)	20 (+567%)
Total	**52**	**75 (+44%)**	**240 (+220%)**

C. Recommendations of the Board of Trustees

16. Having examined the applications for grants in the light of the established criteria for selection, the Board recommended approval of: (a) 62 grants, for an amount of US$ 192,640, for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the seventeenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous People;[2] and (b) 14 grants, for an amount of US$ 56,000, for indigenous representatives to attend the fourth session of the Working Group on a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people.[3] In addition, the Board recommended approval of 14 grants, for an amount of US$ 57,800, for representatives to participate in the first session of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group on a permanent forum for indigenous people (Geneva, 15-19 February 1999), thus fulfilling the new mandate of the Fund and Board established by the General Assembly in resolution 53/130. The beneficiaries were: Saoudata Aboubacrine (Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires tin Hinan, Burkina Faso), Faustino Alba Rodriguez (Asociación Napguana/Congreso General de la Cultura Kuna, Panama), Nadir Bekirov (Mejlis of the Crimea Tatar People, Ukraine), Minnie Degawan (Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Philippines), Aucan Huilcaman (Consejo de Todas las Tierras, Chile), Antonio Jacanamijoy (International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica, Colombia), Samson Ole Mootian (Maa Development Association, Kenya), Bineet Mundu (International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Chotanagpur Adivasi Seva Samiti, India), Narad Mani Rai Kirati (Nepal Indigenous Peoples Development and Information Service Centre, Nepal), Rodrigo de la Cruz (International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests, Ecuador), Glenn Shaw (Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, Australia), Jocelyn Roger Therese (Fédération des organisations amérindiennes de Guyane, France), Michael Todishew (Association of the Shoria People, Russian Federation) and Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca (Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tahuantinsuyana, Peru). According to the application forms received, all of the representatives are indigenous persons and each participated in the Working Group as the representative of an authorized organization.

17. The members of the Board who were at Geneva in October 1999 met for inter-sessional consultations to consider applications received for travel grants to

participate in the second session of the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group on a permanent forum (Geneva, 14-23 February 2000). The Board recommended approval of 34 travel grants, for a total amount of US$ 149,380 (for the list of beneficiaries, see annex II to the present report). These recommendations were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 5 November 1999.

18. A total of US$ 306,440 was approved for disbursement in 1999.

19. As part of the annual reporting cycle, the Board held a meeting with representatives of interested donor Governments, at which they expressed their gratitude for the donors' generous contributions and recommended, if possible, their sustained effort. The Board also informed them of its activities.

D. Implementation

20. The travel grants were paid on time to ensure the participation of the beneficiaries at the sessions of the three working groups.

VI. Thirteenth session of the Board

21. The thirteenth session of the Board was held at Geneva from 10 to 12 April 2000 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. All the recommendations adopted by the Board at that session were approved by the High Commissioner, on behalf of the Secretary-General, on 13 April 2000.

A. New contributions received before the thirteenth session

22. The following new contributions were received in time for the allocation of travel grants at the thirteenth session of the Board:[1]

	Amount (United States dollars)	*Payment received at*	*Date received*
A. State			
Canada	10 194	Geneva	29.06.1999
Cyprus	2 009	Geneva	15.03.2000
Denmark	40 000	Geneva	24.06.1999
	40 000	Geneva	11.04.2000
Estonia	9 596	Geneva	10.01.2000
Finland	34 062	Geneva	23.03.2000
Greece	6 300	Geneva	15.04.1999
Holy See	1 000	Geneva	31.12.1999
Japan	13 000	New York	29.02.2000
Norway	49 862	Geneva	30.12.1999
Switzerland	8 750	Geneva	26.01.2000
	13 125	Geneva	26.01.2000

	Amount (United States dollars)	Payment received at	Date received
B. Contributions by non-governmental organization and individuals			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC)	13 060	Geneva	20.07.1999
Shimin Gaikou Centre	1 500	Geneva	14.04.1999
	1 500	Geneva	17.03.2000
Daniel Prémont	120	Geneva	27.03.2000
Total	**244 078**		

23. The following pledges were registered as at 30 June 2000:

State	Amount (United States dollars)	Pledged at	Date pledged
Bolivia	1 000	New York	2-3.11.1999
Chile	5 000	New York	2-3.11.1999
Netherlands	31 425	Geneva	16.05.2000
Switzerland	24 096	Geneva	17.03.2000
Total	**61 521**		

B. Applications for grants

24. The Board considered 119 applications from indigenous communities and organizations requesting financial assistance to participate in the eighteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, to be held at Geneva from 24 to 30 July 2000, and 36 applications requesting financial assistance to participate in the fourth session of the Working Group on a draft declaration, scheduled to be held at Geneva from 16 to 27 October 2000.

C. Recommendations of the Board of Trustees

25. Having examined the applications for grants in the light of the established criteria for selection, the Board recommended approval of: (a) 66 grants, for an amount of US$ 163,000, to allow representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations; and (b) 27 grants, for an amount of US$ 102,200, for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the session of the Working Group on a draft declaration (for the lists of beneficiaries, see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2000/4).

26. A total of US$ 265,200 was therefore approved for disbursement in 2000.

27. The Board also recommended that sufficient funds (amounting to a minimum of US$ 100,000) be allocated for grants to allow indigenous representatives to attend a possible meeting on a permanent forum in 2001, pending the adoption of a

resolution by the General Assembly which could further extend the mandate of the Fund. It was agreed that priority should in this case be given to beneficiaries who had participated in the first and second sessions of the ad hoc Working Group on a permanent forum in 1999 and 2000 and that all applicants should comply with the criteria previously recommended by the Board.

28. The Board noted with satisfaction that, given the amount of new contributions paid by donors and the new applications received from indigenous organizations and communities, it had been able to recommend in 2000 an increased number of grants. It also noted the increase in the number of grants approved since the beginning of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (see annexes III and IV to the present report).

29. The Board met for one hour with interested donors to thank them and inform them of the activities of the Fund and the Board.

D. Implementation

30. At the date of preparation of the present report, all of the travel grants to attend the Working Group on Indigenous Populations had been processed.

VII. Fund-raising

31. In view of the increasing demand for financial assistance and the additional mandates entrusted to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/150, encouraged Governments to support the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People by, inter alia, contributing, together with other donors, to the Fund.

32. Also, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2000/56 of 25 April 2000,[4] appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to consider contributing to the Fund.

33. Further, the Subcommission on the Promotion and the Protection of Human Rights had also recommended, in its resolution 1999/19 of 26 August 1999,[5] that the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Coordinator for the Decade, consider holding a special fund-raising meeting to encourage financial contributions to the Fund.[5]

34. The Board members followed up a proposal made by the High Commissioner as Coordinator of the Decade to assist them in their fund-raising efforts and recommended that the High Commissioner send a letter of appeal to donors for additional contributions, to be paid by the end of the year, to allow the Board to increase further the number of grants and the representation of indigenous communities and organizations in 2000. The High Commissioner therefore sent a letter on 1 October 1999 appealing for new contributions and agreed to do the same in 2000.

35. At the invitation of the Bureau, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, addressed the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session and appealed for new and regular contributions. The Chairperson estimated that an amount of US$ 600,000 would be necessary to cover the expenditure foreseen for 2001.

Notes

[1] According to official receipt vouchers available at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

[2] For the list of beneficiaries, see E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1999/6, annex II.

[3] Ibid., annex III.

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[5] E/CN.4/2000/2, chap. II, sect. A.

Annex I

Criteria for the selection of beneficiaries

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/131, the only beneficiaries of assistance from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations shall be representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities:

(a) Who are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the Fund;

(b) Who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Groups without the assistance provided by the Fund;

(c) Who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Groups of the problems affecting indigenous populations and who would secure a broad geographical representation.

2. As regards applications to participate in the deliberations of the working groups of the Commission on Human Rights in accordance with resolution 1995/32 of the Commission on Human Rights,[a] organizations must in addition hold consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or be authorized by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to attend the working groups of the Commission.

3. In addition, the Board has developed the following practice and guidelines which have been approved by the Secretary-General:

(a) The representatives applying for grants should be indigenous and the organizations nominating them should also be indigenous organizations;

(b) The Board selects both representatives who have never participated in a session of a working group and representatives who have already participated and could develop a specialized capacity and strengthen the core group of participants in a working group;

(c) The Board considers a maximum of two applicants per organization;

(d) The Board does not consider applicants who do not provide a letter of support signed by an executive official or body of their indigenous organization (self-supporting letters will not be considered) or an applicant who is not an indigenous person;

(e) Applicants are requested to duly complete, sign and date their application forms and to attach a letter of recommendation from their organization. The applications and attachments must be submitted in the working languages of the Board's secretariat (English, French or Spanish). Applications received in other official working languages of United Nations organs (Arabic, Chinese or Russian) will be returned to the applicants with the request that a translation in English, French or Spanish be resubmitted to the secretariat. Applications and letters of recommendation in languages other then English, French or Spanish will not be considered by the Board;

(f) The Board encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider gender balance and, if possible, to nominate one woman and one man;

(g) The Board encourages indigenous organizations and communities to consider nominating young persons;

(h) The Board encourages the former beneficiaries of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme administered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to apply for grants to represent their indigenous organization or community at sessions of the working groups by sending duly completed application forms and meeting all the criteria for selection;

(i) Applicants are requested to indicate their responsibility in their organization or community;

(j) Applicants applying to participate in the eighteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations have been requested to refer in their statements to the specific theme of the year, "Indigenous children and youth".

Notes

[a] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda and addendum (E/1995/23 and Corr.1-2 and Add.7), chap. II, sect. A.

Annex II

List of beneficiaries approved to attend the second session of the Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people (Geneva, 14-23 February 2000)

Name and gender of representative	*Organization community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
Africa			
Saudata Aboubacrine (F)	Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires (ANCAP-Tamanynut)/ Association des femmes réfugiées de l'Azawadau Burkina Faso (AFRAB)	Tuareg	Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)
Ole Kaunga Johnson M. N. (M)	Organisation for Survival of Illaikipiak Indigenous Maasai Group Initiatives (OSILIGI)	Larkipis, Maasai	Nanyuki (Kenya)
Koros Ole Salau (M)	Maa Development Organization	Maasai	Narok (Kenya)
Ole Mootian Samson (M)	Maa Development Organization	Maasai	Narok (Kenya)
Hassan Id Balkassm (M)	Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires (ANCAP)	Amazigh (Berber)	Rabat (Morocco)
Latifa El Mousoui (F)	Association nouvelle de la culture et des arts populaires (ANCAP)	Amazigh (Berber)	Rabat (Morocco)
Americas			
Benjamin Huarachi Flores (M)	Federación de Ayllus del Sur de Oruro	Population of 34,760 inhabitants, in various provinces of the department of Oruro: Cabrera, Pagador, Poopó	Oruro (Bolivia)
Manuel Alberto Santander Solis (M)	Confederación Regional de Comunidades Mapuche	Mapuche	Temuco (Chile)
Aucan Huilcamán (M)	Consejo de Todas las Tierras	Mapuche	Temuco (Chile)
Antonio Jacanamijoy (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Coordinadora	400 indigenous villages in nine countries of	Bogota (Colombia)

Name and gender of representative	*Organization community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
	de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)	Amazonia: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana (France), Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela	
Rodrigo de la Cruz (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)	400 indigenous villages in nine countries of Amazonia: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana (France), Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela	Quito (Ecuador)
Jocelyn Roger Therese (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Fédération des organisations amérindiennes de Guyane (FOAG)	Kali'nas, Palikurs, Arawaks, Wayanas, Wayapism Emérillons	Awala-Yalimapo (French Guyana-France)
Fortunato Turpo Choquehanca (M)	Comisión Jurídica de los Pueblos de Integración Tahuantinsuyana (COJPITA)	Populations of Arequipa, Puno, Cusco, Apurimac, Madre de Dios etc.	Arequipa (Peru)
Estebancio Castro Diaz (M)	International Indian Treaty Council/Movimiento de la Juventud Kuna	Kuna, Yaquis, Mayas, Lakotas	Panama City (Panama)
Andres-Idal De Leon-Kantule (M)	Asociación Kunas Unidos po Napguana (Asociación Napguana)	Kuna	Panama City (Panama)
Faustino Alba (M)	Asociación Napguana	Kuna	Panama City (Panama)
Tony Black Feather (M)	Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council (TSNTC)	Lakota	Albuquerque (United States of America)
Johnson Holy Rock (M)	Teton Sioux Nation Treaty	Lakota	Albuquerque (United States of America)

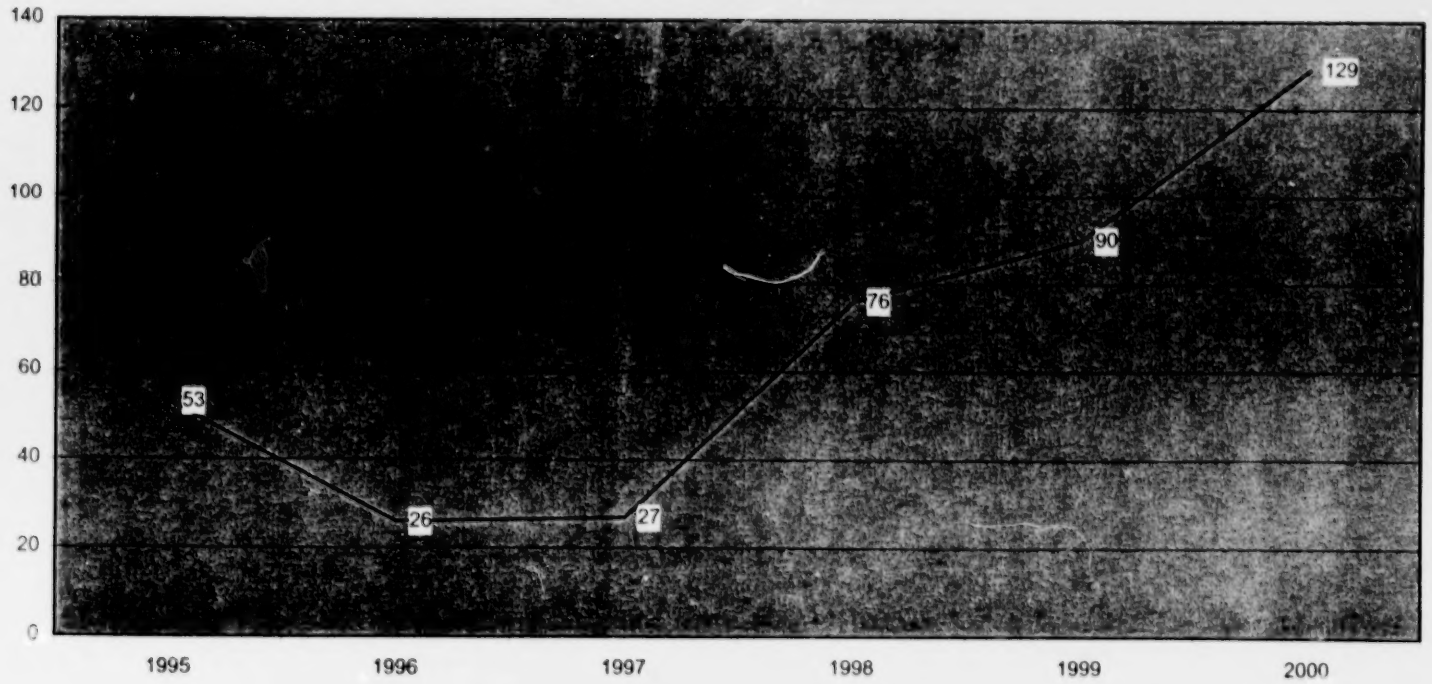
Name and gender of representative	*Organization/community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
Asia			
Liton Bom (M)	Chin Human Rights Organization/International Peace Bureau	Chin	Bandarban (Bangladesh)
Munda Ram Dayal (M)	Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples	Adivasi	New Delhi (India)
Bineet Mundu (M)	International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests/Chottanagpur Adivasi Sewa Samiti (CASS)	Adivasi	New Delhi (India)
Rai Kirati Narad Mani (M)	Nepal Indigenous Peoples Development and Information Service Centre	Rai-Kirati, Limbu, Chepang, Tamang, Gurung, Magar	Kathmandu (Nepal)
Bae Trinidad T. Sibug (F)	Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines (TRICAP)	Luzon groups, Visayas group, Mindano group	Quezon City (Philippines)
Mansayagan Edtami (M)	Lumad Mindanaw Peoples Federation	Erumanen Manavu, B'laan, T'boli, Higaunon, Dulangan Manobo, Lambangian, Teduray, Matigsalug Manobo, Subanen, Mansaka, Mandaya, Agusan Manobo, K'lagan, Kaulu	Davao City (Philippines)
Minnie Degawan (F)	Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA)	Igorot people of Cordillera	Baguio City (Philippines)
Europe			
Krivochapkine A. (M)	Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North of Sakha Republic	Evenks, Evens, Yukaghirs, Dolgans, Chukchis	Moscow (Russian Federation)
Sergey Kirillin (M)	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)	30 indigenous tribes of the North, Siberia and Far East of Russian Federation (20,000 people)	Moscow (Russian Federation)

Name and gender of representative	*Organization community*	*Indigenous population represented*	*City (country or territory)*
Sergey Haruchi (M)	Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)	30 indigenous tribes of the North, Siberia and Far East of Russian Federation (20,000 people)	Moscow (Russian Federation)
Michael Todyshev (M)	Association of Shor People	Shors	Novokuznetsk, Kemerovo Region (Russian Federation)
Robbeck Vasily (M)	Association of Indigenous Minorities of the North of Sakha Republic/Institute of the Minority Peoples of the South	Evens, Evenks, Yukaghirs, Dolgans, Sakhas	Yakutsk (Russian Federation)
Nadir Bekirov (M)	Mejlis of the Crimea Tatar People	Crimean Tatars, Karaims, Krymchaks	Simferopol (Ukraine)
Oceania			
Dennis Eggington (M)	Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	Perth (Australia)
Tauni Ngatai Sinclair (M)	Te Kawau Maro	Maori	Auckland (New Zealand)
Moana Lynette Sinclair (F)	Te Kawau Maro	Maori	Auckland (New Zealand)

Note: According to their application forms all of the representatives are indigenous persons and were accredited by an authorized organization to participate in the Working Group.

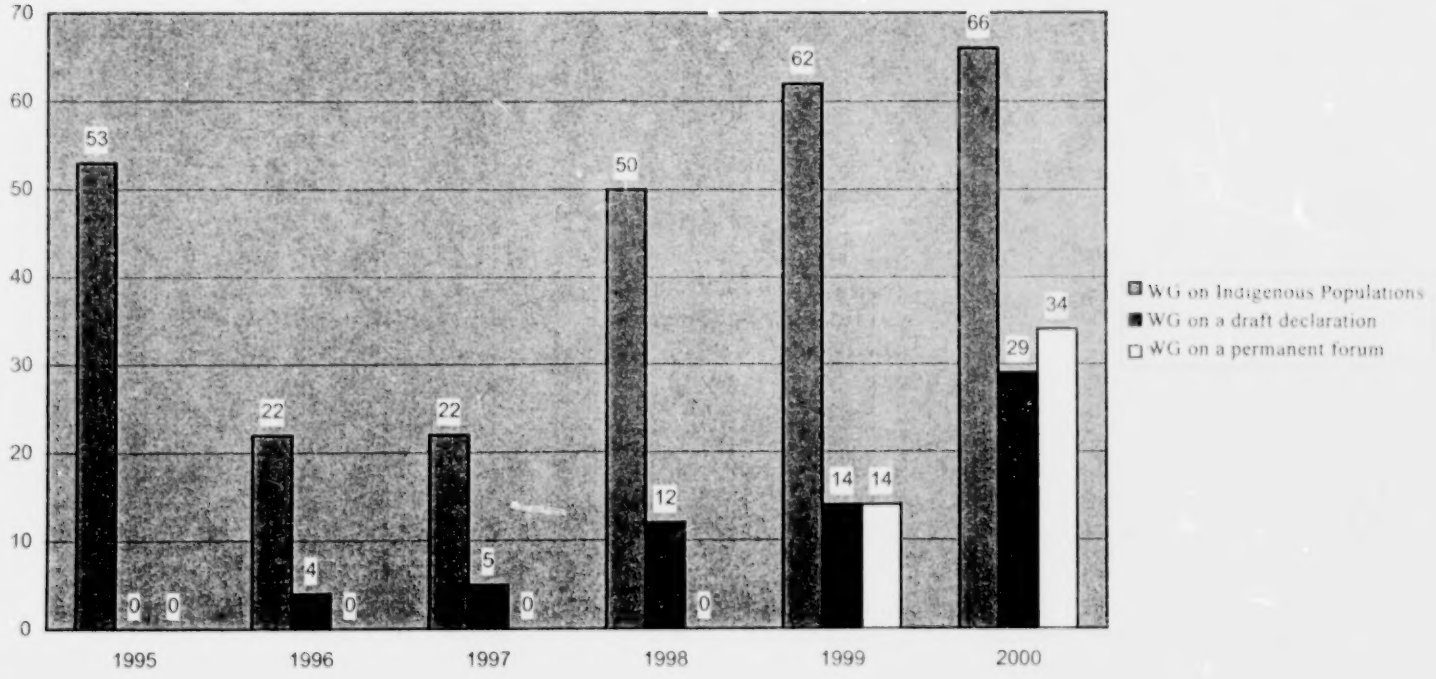
Annex III

Number of grants approved, 1995-2000



Annex IV

Grants approved per Working Group, 1995-2000



United Nations A/55/203

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 114 of the provisional agenda*
Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 2106 A (XX) of 21 December 1965, adopted and opened for signature and ratification the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and invited the States referred to in article 17 of the Convention to sign and ratify it without delay. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it reports concerning the state of ratifications of the Convention, which would be considered by the Assembly at future sessions.

2. In its resolution 53/131 of 9 December 1998, the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention (A/53/256); reaffirmed once again its conviction that ratification of or accession to the Convention on a universal basis and implementation of its provisions were necessary for the realization of the objectives of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and for action beyond the Decade; urged all States that had not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto; requested the States parties to the Convention that had not yet done so to consider the possibility of making the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention; and decided to consider at its fifty-fifth session a report concerning the status of the Convention.

3. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was opened for signature in New York on 7 March 1966. It entered into force on 4 January 1969, on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the twenty-seventh instrument of ratification, as provided for in article 19 of the Convention.

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* A/55/150.

** This report is being submitted on 19 July 2000 in order to include as much updated information as possible.

00-58541 (E) 060900

4. As of 30 June 2000, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 156 States parties. The list of States that had signed, ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention, and the dates of their signatures, ratifications, accessions or successions is contained in the annex to the present report.

5. As of the same date, 30 of the States parties to the Convention — namely Algeria, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uruguay — had made the declaration provided for under article 14 of the Convention, recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within their jurisdiction claiming to be victims of violation by those States parties of any of the rights set forth in the Convention. The provisions of article 14 entered into force on 3 December 1982, in accordance with paragraph 9 of that article.

6. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination normally holds two regular sessions annually of three weeks' duration each. In accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the Committee is to submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly. The report to be submitted to the Assembly at its present session (A/55/18) covers the activities of the Committee at its fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions.

Annex

States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as at 30 June 2000

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Entry into force*
Afghanistan	6 July 1983[a]	5 August 1983
Albania	11 May 1994[a]	10 June 1994
Algeria	14 February 1972	15 March 1972
Antigua and Barbuda	25 October 1988[a]	24 November 1988
Argentina	2 October 1968	4 January 1969
Armenia	23 June 1993[a]	23 July 1993
Australia	30 September 1975	30 October 1975
Austria	9 May 1972	8 June 1972
Azerbaijan	16 August 1996[a]	15 September 1996
Bahamas	5 August 1975[b]	4 September 1975
Bahrain	27 March 1990[a]	26 April 1990
Bangladesh	11 June 1979[a]	11 July 1979
Barbados	8 November 1972[a]	8 December 1972
Belarus	8 April 1969	8 May 1969
Belgium	7 August 1975	6 September 1975
Bolivia	22 September 1970	22 October 1970
Bosnia and Herzegovina	16 July 1993[b]	16 July 1993
Botswana	20 February 1974[a]	22 March 1974
Brazil	27 March 1968	4 January 1969
Bulgaria	8 August 1966	4 January 1969

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Entry into force*
Burkina Faso	18 July 1974[a]	17 August 1974
Burundi	27 October 1977	26 November 1977
Cambodia	28 November 1983	28 December 1983
Cameroon	24 June 1971	24 July 1971
Canada	14 October 1970	13 November 1970
Cape Verde	3 October 1979[a]	2 November 1979
Central African Republic	16 March 1971	15 April 1971
Chad	17 August 1977[a]	16 September 1977
Chile	20 October 1971	19 November 1971
China	29 December 1981[a]	28 January 1982
Colombia	2 September 1981	2 October 1981
Congo	11 July 1988[a]	10 August 1988
Costa Rica	16 January 1967	4 January 1969
Côte d'Ivoire	4 January 1973[a]	3 February 1973
Croatia	12 October 1992[b]	8 October 1991
Cuba	15 February 1972	16 March 1972
Cyprus	21 April 1967	4 January 1969
Czech Republic	22 February 1993[b]	1 January 1993
Democratic Republic of the Congo	21 April 1976[a]	21 May 1976
Denmark	9 December 1971	8 January 1972
Dominican Republic	25 May 1983[a]	24 June 1983
Ecuador	22 September 1966[a]	4 January 1969
Egypt	1 May 1967	4 January 1969
El Salvador	30 November 1979[a]	30 December 1979
Estonia	21 October 1991[a]	20 November 1991

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Entry into force*
Ethiopia	23 June 1976[a]	23 July 1976
Fiji	11 January 1973[b]	10 February 1973
Finland	14 July 1970	13 August 1970
France	28 July 1971[a]	27 August 1971
Gabon	29 February 1980	30 March 1980
Gambia	29 December 1978[a]	28 January 1979
Georgia	2 June 1999[a]	2 July 1999
Germany	16 May 1969	15 June 1969
Ghana	8 September 1966	4 January 1969
Greece	18 June 1970	18 July 1970
Guatemala	18 January 1983	17 February 1983
Guinea	14 March 1977	13 April 1977
Guyana	15 February 1977	17 March 1977
Haiti	19 December 1972	18 January 1973
Holy See	1 May 1969	31 May 1969
Hungary	1 May 1967	4 January 1969
Iceland	13 March 1967	4 January 1969
India	3 December 1968	4 January 1969
Indonesia	25 June 1999[a]	25 July 1999
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	29 August 1968	4 January 1969
Iraq	14 January 1970	13 February 1970
Israel	3 January 1979	2 February 1979
Italy	5 January 1976	4 February 1976
Jamaica	4 June 1971	4 July 1971
Japan	15 December 1995	14 January 1996

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Entry into force*
Jordan	30 May 1974[a]	29 June 1974
Kazakhstan	26 August 1998[a]	25 September 1998
Kuwait	15 October 1968[a]	4 January 1969
Kyrgyzstan	5 September 1997	5 October 1997
Lao People's Democratic Republic	22 February 1974[a]	24 March 1974
Latvia	14 April 1992[a]	14 May 1992
Lebanon	12 November 1971[a]	12 December 1971
Lesotho	4 November 1971[a]	4 December 1971
Liberia	5 November 1976[a]	5 December 1976
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3 July 1968[a]	4 January 1969
Liechtenstein	1 March 2000[a]	31 March 2000
Lithuania	10 December 1998	9 January 1999
Luxembourg	1 May 1978	31 May 1978
Madagascar	7 February 1969	9 March 1969
Malawi	11 June 1996[a]	11 July 1996
Maldives	24 April 1984[a]	24 May 1984
Mali	16 July 1974[a]	15 August 1974
Malta	27 May 1971	26 June 1971
Mauritania	13 December 1988	12 January 1989
Mauritius	30 May 1972[a]	29 June 1972
Mexico	20 February 1975	22 March 1975
Monaco	27 September 1995	27 October 1995
Mongolia	6 August 1969	5 September 1969
Morocco	18 December 1970	17 January 1971
Mozambique	18 April 1983[a]	18 May 1983
Namibia	11 November 1982[a]	11 December 1982

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Entry into force*
Nepal	30 January 1971[a]	1 March 1971
Netherlands	10 December 1971	9 January 1972
New Zealand	22 November 1972	22 December 1972
Nicaragua	15 February 1978[a]	17 March 1978
Niger	27 April 1967	4 January 1969
Nigeria	16 October 1967[a]	4 January 1969
Norway	6 August 1970	5 September 1970
Pakistan	21 September 1966	4 January 1969
Panama	16 August 1967	4 January 1969
Papua New Guinea	27 January 1982[a]	26 February 1982
Peru	29 September 1971	29 October 1971
Philippines	15 September 1967	4 January 1969
Poland	5 December 1968	4 January 1969
Portugal	24 August 1982[a]	23 September 1982
Qatar	22 July 1976[a]	21 August 1976
Republic of Korea	5 December 1978[a]	4 January 1979
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993[a]	25 February 1993
Romania	15 September 1970[a]	15 October 1970
Russian Federation	4 February 1969	6 March 1969
Rwanda	16 April 1975[a]	16 May 1975
Saint Lucia	14 February 1990[b]	16 March 1990
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 November 1981[a]	9 December 1981
Saudi Arabia	22 September 1997	22 October 1997
Senegal	19 April 1972	19 May 1972
Seychelles	7 March 1978[a]	6 April 1978

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Entry into force
Sierra Leone	2 August 1967	4 January 1969
Slovakia	28 May 1993[b]	28 May 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992[b]	6 July 1992
Solomon Islands	17 March 1982[b]	16 April 1982
Somalia	26 August 1975	25 September 1975
South Africa	10 December 1998	9 January 1999
Spain	13 September 1968[a]	4 January 1969
Sri Lanka	18 February 1982[a]	20 March 1982
Sudan	21 March 1977[a]	20 April 1977
Suriname	15 March 1984[b]	14 April 1984
Swaziland	7 April 1969[a]	7 May 1969
Sweden	6 December 1971	5 January 1972
Switzerland	29 November 1994[a]	29 December 1994
Syrian Arab Republic	21 April 1969[a]	21 May 1969
Tajikistan	11 January 1995[a]	10 February 1995
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994[b]	17 September 1991
Togo	1 September 1972[a]	1 October 1972
Tonga	16 February 1972[a]	17 March 1972
Trinidad and Tobago	4 October 1973	3 November 1973
Tunisia	13 January 1967	4 January 1969
Turkmenistan	29 September 1994[a]	29 October 1994
Uganda	21 November 1980[a]	21 December 1980
Ukraine	7 March 1969	6 April 1969
United Arab Emirates	20 June 1974[a]	20 July 1974
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 March 1969	6 April 1969

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession*	*Entry into force*
United Republic of Tanzania	27 October 1972[a]	26 November 1972
United States of America	21 October 1994	20 November 1994
Uruguay	30 August 1968	4 January 1969
Uzbekistan	28 September 1995[a]	28 October 1995
Venezuela	10 October 1967	4 January 1969
Viet Nam	9 June 1982[a]	9 July 1982
Yemen	18 October 1972[a]	17 November 1972
Yugoslavia	2 October 1967	4 January 1969
Zambia	4 February 1972	5 March 1972
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991[a]	12 June 1991
Total: 156		

Note: The following States have signed but not ratified the Convention: Benin, Bhutan, Grenada, Ireland, Turkey.

[a] Accession.

[b] Date of receipt of notification of succession.

United Nations A/55/204

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Item 116 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/55/150

** In accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/248, sect. C, para. 1, this report is being submitted on 18 July 2000 so as to include as much updated information as possible.

00-58547 (E) 280800

I. Mandate of the Fund

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, established the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereinafter "the Fund") with the purpose of assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions which deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereinafter "the Working Group") by providing them with financial assistance and to extend humanitarian, legal and financial aid, through established channels of assistance, to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals.

II. Administration and Board of Trustees

2. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations on general trust funds, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the advice of a Board of Trustees (hereinafter "the Board").

3. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. The current members of the Board, appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year renewable term, in consultation with the Chairman of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution are: Swami Agnivesh (Chairman; India); Theo van Boven (Netherlands); Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania); Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation); and José de Souza Martins (Brazil).

III. Beneficiaries

4. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be in the opinion of the Board: representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery; and individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. Grants cycle

5. Applications for travel and for project grants must be submitted , by 15 September 2000, for analysis by the secretariat of the Fund and Board to the Trust Funds Unit, Support Service Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva (see contact details in paras. 24-25 below). Admissible applications will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to take place in the last week of January 2001. The Board will adopt at that session recommendations for grants which will be submitted for approval to the High Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in February/March 2001. Beneficiaries of project grants have then to provide satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 December 2001. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid.

V. Payment of contributions

6. In order to meet the requirements of the above-mentioned grant's cycle and to meet new requests for financing during a current year, new voluntary contributions should be paid to the Fund by the end of November in order to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer well in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions which can not be recorded before the session of the Board will be carried over to the following year.

VI. Fifth session of the Board (7-10 February 2000)

7. During eight meetings, the Board examined information prepared by its secretariat concerning the financial situation of the Fund and new applications for grants. The Board also revised the implementation by its secretariat of recommendations approved at the fourth session, in 1999. In that respect, the Board noted with satisfaction that all beneficiaries had implemented the projects in good faith. The Board heard the secretariat of the Working Group and the Committee on the Rights of the Child on questions of common interest for the three organs. The Board also met with representatives of Terre des hommes (Switzerland), an international non-governmental organization acting as an established channel of assistance for a non-governmental organization that received a grant from the Fund in 1999, Foyer Maurice Sixto (Haiti). The Board also held its annual meeting with donors.

8. The following contributions were available at the fifth session of the Board:

Table 1
Contributions[a] available at the fifth session of the Board in February 2000, as at 6 February 2000
(United States dollars)

States[b]	*Amount*	*Paid on*	*Paid in New York or Geneva*	*Contribution number*
France	16 357	29 April 1999	Geneva	2nd
Holy See	1 000	30 December 1999	Geneva	1st
Ireland	26 386	1 December 1999	Geneva	2nd
Netherlands	34 799	20 January 2000	Geneva	2nd
Poland	5 000	6 October 1999	Geneva	1st
Saudi Arabia	10 000	22 July 1999	Geneva	1st
South Africa	7 589	7 April 1999	Geneva	2nd
Subtotal	**101 131**			
Non-governmental organizations and individuals	*Amount*	*Paid on*	*Paid in New York or Geneva*	*Contribution number*
Students at Instituto Tecnico Commerciale Statal O. Romero (Albino, Italy)	528	27 December 1999	Geneva	3rd
Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights (Tokyo)	671	30 August 1999	Geneva	1st
Mr. Trento Longaretti[c] (Bergamo, Italy)	3 145	8 December 1999	Geneva	1st
Mr. Sadiq M. Marafi (Geneva)	993	7 September 1999	Geneva	2nd
Operazione Terzo Mondo (Albino, Italy)	1 000	10 June 1999	Geneva	2nd
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa (Aichi-Ken, Japan)	336	30 August 1999	Geneva	2nd
Women's World Summit Foundation (Geneva)	2 815	22 June 1999	Geneva	1st
Subtotal	**9 488**			
Grand total	**110 619**			

[a] According to official receipt vouchers available at OHCHR.

[b] The following additional contributions by States were also paid in time but not yet officially recorded by the United Nations Treasurer: Japan $53,000; Kuwait $25,152. Although the official receipt vouchers were received later on, the contributions were considered for the allotment of grants.

[c] Mr. Trento Longaretti, a well-known Italian painter, who organized together with the Italian Permanent Mission, an exhibition of his works of art at the Palais des Nations and at the Palais Wilson in Geneva, decided to donate the proceeds of the sale of several books to the Fund. The Board of Trustees of the Fund appreciated this initiative and thanked Mr. Longaretti very much.

9. The Board of Trustees examined 43 new admissible applications for travel grants to attend the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group (14-23 June 2000), amounting to approximately $113,059, and 25 new applications for project grants, amounting to approximately $552,236.

10. After having examined the applications in the light of the established criteria for selection, the Board recommended 17 travel grants, amounting to $30,800 to enable representatives of non-governmental organizations to participate in the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group. The Board also recommended

17 project grants amounting to $83,500. The total amount for travel and project grants recommended in 2000 was $114,300. The list of beneficiaries is available in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights.[1] The list of travel grants approved[2] gives the names of the organizations, the names of representatives and the theme to be discussed at the Working Group. The list of project grants gives the names of the organizations, the titles of the projects or aspects covered, and the amounts of the grants.

VII. Approval of recommendations and implementation

11. All the recommendations made by the Board at its fifth session were approved on 17 February 2000 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General. By 5 July 2000, all the project and travel grants had been paid. The Board approved recommendations that the Chairman or a member of the Board should continue to be given an opportunity by the Bureau to deliver a brief speech to the Commission on Human Rights, under the relevant agenda item, in order to inform the Commission about its work and the financial situation of the Fund and to introduce the relevant note on the Fund by the secretariat to the Commission; and that applications for project grants for 2001 can ask for a maximum of $15,000.[3]

12. The Board noted with satisfaction that, thanks to the receipt of new contributions from regular and new donors (including Governments, non-governmental organizations, Italian students and other individuals) and an increase in the number of new applications from non-governmental organizations, it has been able to recommend more grants than in the previous years. Table 2 below shows the increase.

Table 2
Grants approved, 1997-2000
(United States dollars)

Year	*Grant*
1997	28 850
1998	-
1999	40 505
2000	114 300

VIII. Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

13. Fifteen of the 18 beneficiaries of travel grants were able to participate in the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group, held in Geneva from 14 to 23 July 2000. The grants of the beneficiaries who were not able to travel to Geneva were cancelled. According to the agenda of the Working Group and the theme of the speech of the beneficiaries, 12 beneficiaries were asked to participate in the Working Group from 14 to 16 June, and they contributed to the discussions of the Working Group on its main theme, bonded labour and debt bondage, and on issues such as domestic child workers. The other six beneficiaries participated in the Working Group from 19 to 21 June to discuss issues such as sexual exploitation, especially of children, and trafficking in persons. Among the beneficiaries, there were three former victims of contemporary forms of slavery who brought their testimony to the attention of the Working Group.

14. Under item 7 of its agenda, the Working Group reviewed the activities and status of the Fund. The Chairman of the Board, Swami Agnivesh, and another member, Ms. Tatiana Matveeva, were able to attend the Working Group at their own expense. They met with the beneficiaries from the Fund. They introduced the reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/2000/80 and E/CN.4/2000/80/Add.1) on the Fund, thanked the donors to the Fund and appealed for new and regular contributions to the Fund. Under this agenda item, the Secretary of Fund and Board was also asked to provide relevant additional information on the current financial status of the Fund.

15. Members of the Working Group, beneficiaries, international non-governmental organizations and

donors praised the Fund and Board for the increased participation of beneficiaries, which contributed to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the local, subregional and regional situations. The deliberations of the Working Group and its recommendations will be available in the report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000...) to the next session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (31 July to 18 August 2000).

16. The Working Group expressed its gratitude to Governments, organizations and individuals, including young students, who contributed to the Fund and encouraged them to continue doing so. The Working Group also expressed its appreciation for the participation of about 20 representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund, including victims of contemporary forms of slavery, and for their valuable contribution to its work. The Working Group invited the Board to promote the participation of individuals and organizations to the annual sessions of the Working Group from as large a number of countries as possible, in accordance with the priorities established in its agenda. The Working Group also noted with satisfaction that about 20 project grants were paid by the Fund to local non-governmental organizations that work on issues of contemporary forms of slavery. It expressed its deep appreciation for the participation of the Chairperson and a member of the Board who attended the session at their own expense and invited the Board members to participate at its twenty-sixth session, at which it decided to continue to examine the situation and activities of the Fund.

17. The Working Group expressed its support to the work of the members of the Board, in particular, their fund-raising activities, and recalled the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals to contribute to the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in the year 2001.

IX. Needs assessment

18. Applications for grants received in 2000 amounted to about $700,000. In the Board's view, in order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund will need $300,000 more before the sixth session of the Board, scheduled to take place during the last week of January 2001.

19. As at 4 July 2000, the contributions shown in table 3 had been paid and are available for the sixth session of the Board.

Table 3
Contributions available for the sixth session of the Board, as at 4 July 2000[a]
(United States dollars)

States	*Amount*	*Paid in New York or Geneva*	*Paid on*
Japan	50 000	New York	9 June 2000
Subtotal	**50 000**		
Non-governmental organizations and individuals	*Amount*	*Paid in New York or Geneva*	*Paid on*
Students of the Archway School, United Kingdom	1 000	Geneva	23 June 2000
Mr. Daniel Prémont	120	Geneva	29 March 2000
Ms. Halima Warzazi	500	Geneva	19 June 2000
Subtotal	**1 620**		
Grand total	**51 620**		

[a] According to information available at OHCHR.

20. As at 4 July 2000, new pledges to the Fund had been made by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ($5,000) and the Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights from Tokyo (200,000 yen).

X. Fund-raising for the sixth session of the Board of Trustees (January 2001)

21. At its fifth session, the Board thanked the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for having sent in October 1999 a letter to assist them in their fund-raising efforts, appealing for new contributions. The Board recommended that the United Nations High Commissioner send a new letter of appeal to donors for additional contributions, to be paid, if possible, by the end of November, to allow the Board to recommend a further increase in the number of grants.

22. In its resolution 1999/18, of 25 August 1999, on the Fund, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, inter alia, noted with satisfaction the participation of the representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund and their valuable contribution to the work of the Working Group and encouraged their activities. The Subcommission also expressed its satisfaction to the donor Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals — in particular, to the new donors — for their valuable contributions and urged all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals to contribute annually in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively. The Subcommission emphasized the need for contributions to be paid on a regular basis and, if possible, before the end of the current year. The Chairperson of the Working Group, Ms. Halima Warzazi, stressed during the session that the support of the Fund to the Working Group greatly contributed to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery in a larger number of countries, in conformity with the mandate of the Fund.

23. In accordance with their mandate, the Board members continued to develop several initiatives to make the activities of the Fund and Board better known and to obtain new contributions, by, inter alia, widening the donor base and obtaining the support of young persons, the non-governmental organizations community concerned, and the public at large. The secretariat of the Board and Fund also contributed in this respect by providing all information available on the Fund to interested and potential donors.

XI. How to contribute to the Fund

24. Voluntary contributions to the United Nations "humanitarian assistance" Trust Funds can be made by bank transfer to the United Nations Geneva General Fund

(a) In United States dollars (US$):

c/o Chase Manhattan Bank, New York
A/C: 001-1-508629
UNOG General Fund
G/L: UN-0503456
United States Banking Code: 021000021;

(b) In Swiss francs (CHF):

c/o UBS AG
P.O. Box 2770, CH 1211 Geneva 2
Acc. 240-CO-590-160.0
Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

25. Contributions can also be made by cheque to the order of the United Nations. Send the cheque to

(a) Cashier's Office
United Nations
New York, NY 10017, USA

or

(b) Treasurer
United Nations Office at Geneva
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

On the cheque, indicate that it is for "the Slavery Fund, account SH".

XII. Additional information

26. For any additional information, please contact the secretariat of the Fund and Board at the Trust Fund Unit, Support Services Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, CH-1211 Geneva 10. Tel. (41-22) 917 91 64; 917 91 45; 917 92 66. Fax (41-22) 917 90 17. E-mail: eortado-rosich.hchr@unog.ch; dpremont.hchr@unog.ch.

Notes

[1] See E/CN.4/2000/Add.1, annexes I and II.

[2] As requested by the Working Group, the Board duly noted in its recommendations on the applications received that the main theme of the twenty-fifth session of the Working Group was bonded labour and debt bondage.

[3] E/CN.4/2000/Add.1.